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School Committee Minutes 02/09/2010

Approved by the School Committee March 25, 2010

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Joe Curran, Chair Joe Curro, Secretary
 Ronald Spangler Cindy Starks
 Jeff Thielman Leba Heigham
Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Chief Financial Officer: Diane Johnson
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder
Student Representative: Jennie LaCourt

*Absent: Denise Burns, Vice Chair
Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent*

Mr. Curran opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

*Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 8:24 pm.
Dr. Spangler exited the meeting at 8:57 p.m and returned at 9:04 p.m.
Ms. Jennie Lacourt exited the meeting at 8:57 pm. and returned at 9:05 pm.
Dr. Bodie exited the meeting at 9:00 p.m. and returned at 9:07 p.m.
Ms. Starks exited the meeting at 9:31 p.m and returned at 9:35 p.m.
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:31 p.m. and returned at 9:38 p.m.
Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 9:35 p.m and returned at 9:38 p.m
Mr. Ryder exited the meeting at 10:10 p.m.
Ms. Jennie LaCourt exited the meeting at 10:10 p.m.*

Dr. Bodie made a public announcement that all students would be dismissed on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in anticipation of a snowstorm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Head Traffic Supervisor Ms. Roseann Casazza addressed the School Committee members and Administrators regarding her members' disappointment in finding out that their jobs may be cut/eliminated from the FY 2011 budget from reading the Arlington Advocate or watching the January 12th School Committee meeting. Dr. Bodie did acknowledge the oversight of not notifying the traffic supervisors before the announcement, apologized, and expressed appreciation of the value of each traffic supervisor.

The chair pointed out artwork displayed in the School Committee room from the Thompson School students.

MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM K-12

Ms. Nadine Solomon and Mr. James Brown, Director of Mathematics, discussed mathematics in Arlington, including various topics such as data on assessments and professional development tools, that included examples of think tanks and study groups. The pathway for

math students in the middle school and high school were explained, as well as the various math exam options for students in honor classes. One challenge that the department faces is an increase in the number of students from around the world and associate language issues. Other challenges are to raise MCAS scores in the middle school, adapt to the changing technology needs, and fiscal restraints of replacing older text books.

The committee members expressed appreciation for the presentation from Nadine and Jim and discussed the importance of the assessments and ways to continue to measure and compare our MCAS scores with surrounding towns and to continue to improve and meet AYP. They referenced the standards-based report as a means to show whether or not students are mastering the math standards.

BUDGET UPDATE

Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent and Mark Ryder, Director of Special Education, presented a budget update. Ms. Johnson stated that she had created the budget by using latest estimates of both revenues and expenses. Ms. Johnson also said that as more information becomes available budgets will change.

The administration team has worked with Dr. Bodie; FY 2011 possible budget reductions were discussed, along with the impact they will have on the schools. Mr. Ryder explained the impact on the Special Education costs and out of district spending.

Committee members asked that budget documents be posted to the website as soon as possible to keep everyone informed, and it was noted that the possible reductions are in no certain order. It was suggested to show line item proposals at the next School Committee meeting and to have Dr. Bodie prepare for layoffs for this year as she did last year.

APPROVAL 2010 - 2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Bodie reviewed the School Calendar for 2010 – 2011 and announced that first day for students will be Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the School Calendar for 2010 – 2011, seconded and amended by Ms. Starks to change NSAL (no school all levels) to H = Holiday.

Voted: 6-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bodie announced that Arlington Public Schools will close at 11:30 on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 due to a pending snow storm. Dr. Bodie publicized the process for the Peirce Principal Search and encouraged the Peirce community to apply to serve on the search committee. Mr. Ardito – via Dr. Bodie – invited everyone to Jefferson Cutter House Gallery display opening February 25, 2010 from 4 – 5 p.m. Dr. Bodie commended participants in performing arts and chorale concert, and the farewell jazz concert on Wednesday, February 10th. She also reported that the Arlington REMS grant supported recent training on psychological first aid.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Curro reported on all correspondence received. Ottoson Middle School newsletter, Stratton Capital Plan, Legal Bills, Letter of concern regarding Budget, Draft Minutes November 24, 2009 and Massachusetts Music Educators Association 2010 All State conference and festival for the Ottoson Middle School Orchestra.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

****Approval of Warrant: # 10106 dated January 26, 2010 in the amount of \$1,355,785.65.***

****Minutes for Approval: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 and December 22, 2009.***

****Approval of Trip to Moscow April 2011.***

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Starks said she had attended the chorale and jazz concert and announced Cheryl Christo~has been nominated for the 2010-2011 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. ~The DOE sponsors this program.

Ms. Heigham said the Superintendent Search Committee meetings will be starting and is closed to the public; the next District Accountability meeting will be Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

Dr. Spangler attended and enjoyed the jazz concert with his son. Dr. Spangler asked everyone to return the Vision 2020 survey.

Mr. Thielman said the Permanent Town Building Committee met last week and is working on Stratton School proposals for architect services.

Mr. Curro announced the next Budget Subcommittee meetings for February 16, 2010 at 8 a.m. He also reported on the Budget Revenue Task Force meeting this week; the Bishop PTO; Hardy budget forum; Dallin budget forum; and St. Paul's Church budget forum. Mr. Curro said that the negotiations teams for the School Committee and AEA continue to meet. The Superintendent Diversity Advisory Group also met, and the Policy and Procedures subcommittee met to discuss policy BDAA Election of School Committee Officers. The Crosby and Parmenter reports are out and Crosby discussions will be heard March 10, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Crosby Conference Room, and Parmenter discussions on March 16, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. The Ottoson Middle School hosted the Park and Recreation Department's Daddy-Daughter dance last week, and Joe attended the Hardy elementary winter concert.

Mr. Curran announced that all Arlington Public Schools will be dismissed, Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 11:30 due to the pending snow storm. Mr. Curran, along with 600 others, attended the Daddy-Daughter Dance, too.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Heigham moved to enter Executive Session at 10:33 p.m. for Contract Negotiations and to deliberate strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect. Collective Bargaining may also be conducted, seconded by Dr. Spangler.

Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Curran Yes.

Voted: 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Starks moved to adjourn at 10:53 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jc